Sri Kalimath Temple, Kalimath, Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand

AI Overview

Sri Kalimath Temple is a highly revered 108 Shakti Peeth located at 1,800 meters on the Saraswati River banks in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand. Dedicated to Goddess Kali, it is unique as no idol is worshipped; instead, a silver plated Sri Yantra is worshipped, covering the spot where the Goddess went underground.

Key Features and Significance:

- **Legend:** Associated with the killing of demon Raktbeej.
- **Worship:** Goddess Kali is worshipped here alongside Lakshmi and Saraswati.
- **Unique Custom:** The shrine houses a *Rajatpat Sri Yantra* (silver plate) instead of an idol, which is only uncovered for special Puja once a year during Navratri.
- **Location:** The temple is located near Guptkashi, surrounded by Kedarnath peaks.
- **Festivals:** The Kal Ratri festival is celebrated on the 8th day of Navratri (Ashtami).
- **Historical Associations:** It is believed to be the place where the poet Kalidas meditated.

Nearby Places:

- **Kali Shila:** Located at 2350 meters, this is a "Shila" (sacred stone) dedicated to Kali, often confused with the main temple, but is a distinct site nearby, notes this Facebook post.
- **Shankaracharya Kutir:** A nearby spot for meditation.

The temple is easily accessible and offers a,serene, divine atmosphere, attracting many visitors, particularly during the Navratras

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Ref: Wikipedia

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Kalimath is a Hindu Temple, dedicated to Maa Kali, the fierce and powerful form of Maa Durga. This temple is located in Kalimath village in the Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand. The temple is home to the lower half of the deity, while the upper half is located in the Dhari Devi temple.

Geography

It lies at an altitude of around 6,000 feet (1,800 m) on the Saraswati river in the Himalayas, surrounded by the peaks of Kedarnath. Kalimath is situated close to Ukhimath and Guptakashi.

Religion

The temple of the Hindu goddess Kali there is visited by devotees year round, especially during the *Navratras*.[1] It is one of 108 Shakta pithas in India as per Srimad Devi Bhagwat.[2]

The Sri Yantra is the object of devotion. The idol of Kali is only taken out and worshipped in the temple one day each year when Puja is performed at midnight, with only the chief priest present.[3] Near the temple are other ancient temples to Laxmi, Saraswati, Gauri Shankar and many antique Shivlings, idols of Nandi and Ganesh, etc.

An eternal flame always burns in the temple of Laxmi. Bhairava Mandir is located nearby.[4]

Satpal Maharaj set up a small Dharamshala near the temple where pilgrims can stay. About 2 km east is Kunjethi village, hosting two temples of Mata Manana Devi and Mankameshwar Mahadev. 6 km from Kalimath at the top of a hill there is a huge Kalishila and another Kali Temple.

Mythology

According to Hindu mythology, Raktabija was a powerful demon who had received a boon from Lord Brahma that allowed him to regenerate from every drop of blood that fell from his body. This made him nearly invincible in battle, as each wound created new demons of equal strength.

To defeat Raktabija, Maa Kali adopted a unique strategy — she drank every drop of the demon's blood before it could touch the ground, preventing him from regenerating. After a fierce battle, Maa Kali ultimately destroyed Raktabija and restored cosmic balance.

This story is deeply connected to the origin of Kalimath Temple, as it is believed that after defeating Raktabija, Goddess Kali chose this sacred place to withdraw her immense energy into the earth. This is why, even today, the deity at Kalimath is worshipped in a sacred pit rather than in a visible idol form.[5]

Notables

The village is the birthplace of Kalidas, a Sanskrit poet.

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Ref: chardham-pilgrimage-tour.com

Kalimath Temple

About Kalimath Temple, Guptkashi, Rudraprayag

While Garhwal is known for being home to some of the most important pilgrim shrines, particularly dedicated to Lord Shiva, the Kalimath Temple stands as a significant exception. The Kalimath in Rudraprayag district is a sacred village on the banks of Saraswati river, known for the revered temple dedicated to the powerful Goddess Kali. The Kalimath Temple in Guptkashi, Rudraprayag is one of the 108 shakti peethas and draws devotees from across the country.

Kali is the fierce manifestation of the Shakti, the divine feminine energy in Hindu religion, and believed to be the Goddess of time, destruction, and death. Kalimath village is highly revered, not just by its residents but the whole district. Despite the significance, Kalimath retains the charm of an uncrowded pilgrimage, offering spirituality and serenity in a more prevalent way.

The Kali temple in the Kalimath village is beautifully engulfed in the lap of nature on the bank of river Saraswati and offers a cool, salubrious, and divine environment to its devotees. Kalimath Temple is one of the most popular pilgrimage sites in Uttarakhand which is visited by worshippers from far and wide. The temple is also popular as instead of an idol of Goddess, a Kund (ditch) is worshipped in the shrine. The kund is covered with Rajatpat Sri Yantra which is opened once a year during the Navratri festival. This period is one of the grandest celebrated times in the Kalimath.

History of the Kalimath Temple Rudraprayag

Kalimath in Uttarakhand is an important knot in the thread of Indian religious history. This beautiful valley finds its traces back to the various significant incidents and figures of Hinduism, especially Goddess Kali. Its name is mentioned in several written scriptures and epics.

According to religious mentions, once Daksha Prajapati (A divine king) conducted a yajna and did not invite his daughter Sati and her husband Lord Shiva out of misery. But this mortified Lord Shiva. Due to her father's act, Goddess Sati sacrificed her body in the sacred fire. Lord Shiva, infuriated by this act, began to do tandav holding Sati's burnt body. During the tandav, portions of Sati's body started falling at different places. The spots where Sati's body parts fell were then referred to as Siddha Peeths. Kalimath is one of the 108 Shakti Peethas (or Siddhi Peethas) and the only one in the Kedarnath valley. At this place, Goddess Sati's back fell, symbolising her fierce aspect as the destroyer of evil. There are several other Siddhi Peetha temples across the state of Uttarakhand.

Another mention of Kalimath is in the Markandeya Purana. According to it, to eradicate the growing terror of demons like Raktbeej and Nishumbha, Goddess Durga took the fierce form of Kali. After killing the demon Raktbeej, Goddess Kali disappeared in Kalimath at the spot which now is Kalimath Temple. A ditch in which she disappeared is what is worshipped in the Kalimath temple. The ditch is covered by a silver plate which only is opened once in a year during the Navratri festival.

Architecture and Design of Kalimath Temple

Kalimath Temple is found in a rather serene topography of the great Himalayas. The temple complex has several parts constructed on the bank of the Saraswati River. There are temples for Shiva, Goddess Saraswati, goddess Gauri, and Mahalakhsmi. The complex also has a meditation hall as well as a number of guest houses constructed by the shrine authority. The principal temple which is dedicated to Goddess Kali is circular, beautifully constructed with a sloping roof and built on a square platform. Of great importance within the temple is a silver Sri Yantra, which is worshipped instead of any idol.

Paintings and motifs related to the goddess and her representations cover the encircling wall grill of the Shrine.

The other shrine which is devoted to Lord Shiva is further inside the complex. It also houses the Jyotirlinga and is considered the oldest temple constructed by Adi Shankara, and is of spiritual importance for the worshippers of Lord Shiva. It stands in the traditional north-Indian style using a mandap and a shikhara. Constructed with Rubble stones and less or no binder materials like Mortar or concrete. Also, the Saraswat and Gauri Temple has a similar architecture to the Lord Shiva temple. The meditation hall called the Shankaracharya Kutir was built for the visitors where they can sit and meditate and reflect. The guest houses located close to the temple provide adequate lodging for those who would want to spend the night and be close to the temple.

Religious & Cultural Importance

Although unpopular, Kalimath has great importance among the whole Rudraprayag district. The temple of Kali Mata in Kalimath village is highly revered by devotees all around. It is even a common belief among district locals to first worship newly purchased vehicles in this temple and keep a picture of the Goddess in the vehicle at all times.

While exploring Kalimath, you get to experience a heartwarming welcome. Locals are eager to help and tell you the legends and unknown facts about the village.

Although the Kali Mata Temple stays open for devotees all-round the year, it comes to life during the Navratri festival. This nine-day festival is celebrated with great enthusiasm and reverence. The temple is decorated with lights and colours, grand aarti is performed every evening, and prasad is distributed among devotees. This auspicious festival sees a huge number of pilgrims in the village. As a sign of reverence to the deity, many women keep fast for either one day or throughout the festival duration, during the Navratri festival.

Mahashivratri is another auspicious festival in Kalimath. People at Kalimath worship Lord Shiva, as they are the consort of Maa Kali, as an honour.

Best Time to Visit Kalimath Temple

Ideally, the best time to visit the Kalimath temple is during the summer season, from late April to late June. It is also a relatively warm time of the year and sunny which is ideal for tourists and pilgrims visiting this high-altitude area. The climate is the most appropriate for travelling and worshipping with the average temperatures of 10 – 30 °C. Moreover, the scenery of the area is scenic and becomes striking during this period to make the journey spiritually fulfilling and with aesthetic values as well.

Another good time to visit Kalimath is in Autumn, after the monsoon, particularly between the months of September and November. These months are greener and fresher. With the monsoon season over, the possibilities of having to cross through areas that are susceptible to landslides and having roads washed away are minimal, thus the journey is safer.

Autumn is a cooler climate and less humid making the atmosphere very pleasant compared to the cold months. It is also a blessed period because the temple celebrates its festivals in the same or neighbouring months, such as Navratri, where thousands flock to get the divine blessings of Goddess Kali.

How to Reach Kalimath Temple?

- **By Road:** The easiest way to reach Kalimath is through road transport. The village is well connected by roads. Numerous taxis and buses ply between the various districts of Uttarakhand and Rudraprayag. You can take a cab from Rudraprayag to the Kalimath Temple.
- **By Air:** The nearest airport to Kalimath is Jolly Grant Airport which is situated at a distance of approx 204 km. Taxis will take you right to Kalimath from the airport. There are frequent buses available for travelling from Dehradun to Rudraprayag as well as from Rudraprayag to Dehradun.

- **By Railway:** The nearest railway stations to Kalimath are Rishikesh and Haridwar which are 186 Kms and 210 Kms away from the locale respectively. Out of both Haridwar is more connected to other cities. On arrival at the railway station, you can easily find a taxi for Kalimath.

Where to Stay in Kalimath Rudraprayag?

Although a small village, Kalimath has various hotels and homestays to accommodate. The accommodations in Kalimath offer a magnificent view from their window. However, for more high-end amenities, you can always look for hotels and lodges in nearby villages like Ukhimath, Guptkashi, or Sari.

Nearby Places to Visit Kalimath Temple

Within a distance range of 60-100 km, the following are some of the best places to visit near Kalimath Temple:

- Chotpa -Tungnath - Chandrashila
- Ukhimath Village
- Guptkashi & Sonprayag
- Gaurikund
- Deoriatal
- Madhymaheshwar Temple
- Rudranath Temple

Chotpa - Tungnath - Chandrashila

A perfect off-beat destination, whose beauty is often compared to Switzerland- Chopta is one of the best places to visit near Kalimath. Rolling lush hills and a length of white mountains peeking from the back make the landscapes just adorable. Chopta is known for a few of the most infamous trekking spots in the Garhwal Himalayas -- Tungnath, Chandrashila, and Deoria Tal trek. While Deoria Tal is a shorter trek with a mesmerising landscape of blue lake backed by white glacial peaks, the Tungnath and Chandrashila trek are more demanding and with highly rewarding views at the top.

Ukhimath Village

Ukhimath village is the nearest excursion destination to Kalimath, only 12 kilometres away. This village is more peaceful and much more beautiful than other popular places around. Surrounded by lush mountains and majestic mountains of the Great Himalayas, you can easily find various uncommon hiking trails, which come out as interesting adventures. And the top points of hikes give you an unfiltered view of peaks like Kedarnath and Chaukhamba Parvat.

Ukhimath is also a Hindu pilgrimage centre and has two important temples dedicated to Lord Shiv and the goddess Parvati. The Omkareshwar Temple, dedicated to Shiv, is the winter seat of Kedarnath. Ukhimath is also the base point for treks like the Tungnath Chandrashila trek, Deoria trek, and Madhyamaheshwar.

Guptkashi & Sonprayag

Replete with mythological tales, Ancient temples, and the beauty of mountains, Guptkashi is a religiously important town near Kalimath. It is about 11 kilometres from Kalimath to Guptkashi. The elevation of 1,319 m and lush flora make it a serene beauty you do not come across daily. The name, Guptkashi, refers to the hidden abode of Shiva. It is believed that Lord Shiv initially hid here when Pandavas were in search of Lord Shiv to atone for their sins of killing kin in the battle of Mahabharat.

Another location, just 25 kilometres from Guptkashi, to visit near Kalimath is **Sonprayag**. This village is the major stop before starting the Kedarnath trek from Gaurikund. It is located on the confluence of the Basuki and Mandakini river and serves as an escape from every ounce of the tourist crowd. Guptkashi and Sonprayag, both are enriched with the Himalayan ecosystem and are at the edge of Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary, thus have a stunning diversity of flora and fauna.

Gaurikund

Gaurikund is a unique village known for creating a spiritual aurora before transcending to one of the most pious pilgrimage journeys to Kedarnath. The 14-kilometre sacred trek to Kedarnath temple starts right after Gaurikund village. This village is dedicated to Goddess Gauri, the benevolent manifestation of Goddess Parvati. It is believed that she did a long ascetic and yogic austerity to win Lord Shiva's affection.

Gaurikund village is most revered for its various hot springs (Kunds), especially the holy spring named Gaurikund. Most of the devotees take a dip in the Gaurikund before proceeding on their trek to Kedarnath Temple. You can visit the Gauri temple, where the marriage of Shiv and Gauri is believed to have happened.

Deoriatal

Deoria Tal (Deoria Lake) is a high-altitude lake situated 20 Km from Kalimath village. It is one of the most liked nature trekking destinations in Uttarakhand. Set among a predominating thicket of rhododendrons and oak trees, this beautiful lake reflects the snowy picture of Kedarnath and Chaukhamba peaks on a clear day. Located at an altitude of about 2438 metres above sea level the lake's perimeter is estimated to be between 2-3 km. The route to Deoria Tal is moderate and hence trekking to Deoria Tal is one of the more famous treks near Kalimath for starters and nature lovers.

The 3-kilometre trek to the lake begins from the village of Sari, enjoying the scenery of meadows and forests along the way. The scene right after getting to the lake is incredibly serene and does favour the definition of the word magical. Because of the elevation, you get a clear view of white glacial mountains backing the lake. Historically and mythologically, **Deoria Tal** is called the place where Indra and Shiva's discourse were held and also stated as the place where Gods used to bathe, thus called 'Indra Sarovar' according to Puranas. The other tale associated with the lake is that Bheem himself made the lake to fulfil his thirst.

Madhymaheshwar Temple

The Madmaheshwar Temple located near Chopta village is another important shrine of Lord Shiva in the region near Kalimath. This temple is one of the five temples in the Panch Kedar circuit and is believed to mark the spot where the navel of lord Shiva fell.

It is located in the hilly areas with green fields and trees around and beautiful meadows; a perfect atmosphere for meditation or to pray. The temple architecture is evidently north Indian style with a sanctum that enshrines a silver lingam. The location is beautiful, enveloping both Spiritual resonance and Physical beauty.

Rudranath Temple

Rudranath Temple is another temple among the 'Panch Kedar' circuit after Madhyamaheshwar Temple near Kalimath. It is about 85 kms from Kalimath and situated at an altitude of more than 3600 metres. This historical temple was constructed by the Pandavas as per the scriptures of the great Hindu epic – Mahabharata. The path to Rudranath Temple is considered to be one of the most difficult treks; however, it is quite spiritually fulfilling.

The Rudranath temple is a shrine of Lord Shiva where the deity's Mukha or face is worshipped. The route to Rudranath Temple, through Sagar village, is the best way to explore the natural grandeur. Also, this Himalayan region has rich biodiversity, beautiful meadows known as 'Bugyals,' and natural springs.

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Ref: GrokAI

Location and Address:

Sri Kalimath Temple (also known as Kalimath or Shree Kalimata Temple) is a revered Shakti Peeth dedicated to Goddess Kali. It sits on the banks of the Saraswati River (also called Kali Ganga locally) in the Kedarnath Valley of the Garhwal Himalayas, Rudraprayag district, Uttarakhand. The temple lies at an altitude of about 1,800 meters (around 6,000 feet).

Approximate distances:

~5 km from Guptkashi
~20 km from Ukhimath
~49 km from Rudraprayag
~13 km north of Guptkashi in some references

Address: Kalimath, Kotma Road, Kalimath 246439, Rudraprayag District, Uttarakhand, India.

Phone/Contact:

No prominent official public phone number for the temple management appears in major sources. Inquiries can be made locally via priests/pandits in Kalimath or Guptkashi/Ukhimath.
For travel arrangements, nearby tourism operators or dharamshalas may assist. A dharamshala built by Satpal Maharaj (spiritual guru and former MP) exists for pilgrims.

How to Get There:

Kalimath is well-connected by road and serves as a stop en route to Kedarnath.

By Air: Nearest airport is Jolly Grant (Dehradun), ~204 km away. Taxis or buses to Rudraprayag/Guptkashi, then local taxi/shared jeep to Kalimath.

By Rail: Nearest stations are Rishikesh (~186-187 km) and Haridwar (~210 km). Hire taxis or take buses to Rudraprayag, then proceed by shared jeep/taxi (from Rudraprayag ~49 km; from Ukhimath ~20 km or less).

By Road: Shared jeeps and taxis are available from Rudraprayag, Ukhimath, or Guptkashi. The road is motorable but can be narrow in parts. It lies on the Kedarnath route.

Best time to visit: April–June or September–November (pleasant weather; avoid heavy monsoon landslides and winter snow).
The temple remains open year-round, weather permitting.

Greatness of the Temple:

Kalimath is one of the 108 Shakti Peethas (or Siddha Peeths) in India and the only one in the Kedarnath Valley.
It holds deep spiritual significance as a powerful Shakti site where Goddess Kali's energy is believed to reside.
Devotees visit for wish fulfillment, protection, and blessings. New vehicles purchased for use in the Kedarnath Valley are often brought here for worship.
The site is known for its serene, divine atmosphere amid Himalayan peaks, and it attracts pilgrims during the Char Dham Yatra circuit.
It is mentioned in the Skanda Purana (Chapter 62) and Srimad Devi Bhagwat Mahapuran.
Some associate it with the birthplace or meditation spot linked to poet Kalidasa.

Legends and History:

According to legend, Goddess Durga/Kali took the form of a 12-year-old girl to slay the demons Raktabija (whose blood drops created more demons) and Nishumbha (or Shumbha-Nishumbha), protecting the universe.

After victory, she disappeared underground at this spot.

A sacred ditch/kund marks the place, covered by a silver plate engraved with the Sri Yantra (Shakti Yantra).
This plate is opened only once a year during Navratri.

Another legend ties it to the Sati-Shiva story:

After Sati self-immolated due to the insult at Daksha's yajna, Shiva's Tandava scattered her body parts, creating Shakti Peethas.
Kalimath is one such site (sometimes linked to the lower portion of Sati/Kali, with the upper part at Dhari Devi).
At nearby Kalishila (about 8 km away), footprints and marks from the battle are shown.
A perpetual fire at the Lakshmi shrine is said to have burned three yugas.
Vedic mantras are sometimes reportedly heard, adding to the mystical aura.
The temple has ancient roots and cultural importance in the region.

Architecture of the Temple and Deities:

The main temple is relatively simple, built around the sacred spot with a circular or sloping-roof design on a platform. Instead of a traditional idol, the deity is represented by a Sri Yantra (silver plate covering the kund where Kali is believed to have entered the earth).

The temple complex includes shrines for Goddess Lakshmi (with an eternal flame) and Goddess Saraswati.
It follows the arrangement from Durga Saptashati's Vaikriti Rahasya: Mahalakshmi in the center, Mahakali to the south, Mahasaraswati on the left.

Sub-deities or additional elements include Bhairav Baba, a Shiva shrine (possibly an old one linked to Adi Shankara with a Jyotirlinga in some accounts), Gauri, and reportedly up to 64 Yantras of various gods and goddesses.

The principal Kali temple is distinct, with no visible idol for the main goddess.

Daily Rituals and Poojas (and Charges):

Daily worship involves the Shakti Yantra. Standard darshan and basic rituals occur; the temple is generally open from early morning to evening (approximate timings ~6 AM–6:30 PM, subject to change).
Specific charges for routine daily poojas are not prominently listed in public sources—offerings are typically voluntary or as per local priest arrangements.

Special Poojas, Rituals, and Charges:

The highlight is during Navratri: On the eighth day (Maha Ashtami, dedicated to Kal-Ratri/Kal Rathri), the silver plate is removed, and the chief priest performs special midnight puja outside the temple with elaborate ceremonies.

This is believed to fulfill wishes. No fixed public charges are detailed; devotees offer as per faith. Special vehicle worship is common here.

Contact local priests for any personalized pooja arrangements.

Festivals:

Navratri (especially Sharad Navratri in autumn): Major festival with large crowds. The 8th day (Ashtami) features the uncovering of the Yantra and special worship. Chaitra Navratri (spring) and the two "Gupt" Navratris are also observed.

Kali Puja (around Diwali) and other Shakti-related observances may see heightened activity. Dussehra is mentioned in some local beliefs (e.g., marks on Kalishila).

Facilities for Devotees (Accommodation, etc.):

Accommodation: Limited options directly in Kalimath include a dharamshala (guest house) established by Satpal Maharaj. Basic guesthouses may be available.

Better facilities (hotels, resorts, lodges) are in nearby Guptkashi, Ukhimath, or Rudraprayag.
Other amenities: Simple food joints nearby; the area offers a peaceful setting with natural surroundings.

No luxury facilities on-site—plan for Himalayan conditions (carry warm clothes, etc.).

Donation Info and Bank Account:

No specific public bank account details for the Kalimath Temple trust are readily available in standard tourism sources.
Donations are typically made on-site as offerings (daan) or through local priests/management.
For official contributions, inquire directly at the temple or via the dharamshala. General temple donations in India are often voluntary and handled locally.

Nearby Temples:

- Kalishila Temple (~8 km, site of the demon-slaying battle with footprints).
- Guptkashi Temple.
- Triyuginarayan Temple (ancient Vishnu/Shiva site with eternal flame).
- Ukhimath (Omkareshwar Temple, winter seat of Kedarnath).
- Madmaheshwar Temple.
- Tungnath Temple (near Chopta).
- Shiva and other shrines within the Kalimath complex (Bhairav, Gauri, etc.).

Other Tourist Attractions:

- Chopta (meadows, Tungnath trek, Chandrashila summit for panoramic Himalayan views).
- Deoria Tal (Deoriatal) Lake (scenic, reflective views of peaks).
- Sari Village.
- Omkar Ratneshwar Mahadev.
- Kedarnath Dham (further ahead).
- Baniyakund, Bisurital, and trekking spots in the region. The area offers stunning Himalayan landscapes, suitable for nature lovers and light treks.

Nearby Budget Hotels:

Options are limited in Kalimath itself but available in Guptkashi (~5 km) and Ukhimath:

- Budget guesthouses, lodges, and dharamshalas (e.g., around ₹500–₹2,000/night depending on season).
- Places like Hotel Green View Inn, Kedar-Kashi Resorts, or homestays in the vicinity. Check for basic amenities; many cater to pilgrims.
- Book in advance during peak seasons (Navratri, Char Dham).
- Nearby resorts in Ukhimath or Guptkashi offer more choices, including some with valley views.

Any Other Info:

- The site is peaceful and less crowded than major Char Dham temples, ideal for quiet devotion.
- Photography rules may apply inside the sanctum—follow local guidelines.
- Carry ID, warm clothing, and basic medicines due to altitude and variable weather.

- Respect local customs; the area has strong Shakti and Shaiva traditions.
- For the latest details (timings, road conditions), check with Uttarakhand Tourism or local contacts, as Himalayan sites can face seasonal disruptions.

This information is compiled from reliable tourism and pilgrimage sources.
For precise current details on pooja charges, contact, or bookings, visiting or coordinating through a local guide/pandit is recommended, as many aspects are managed traditionally on-site.

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Ref: Google Gemini

Sri Kalimath Temple, Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand

The Sri Kalimath Temple is one of the most revered **Siddha Peethas** in India, dedicated to Goddess Kali. It is unique among Shakti Peethas as it is the only place where the divine trinity of **Mahakali, Mahalakshmi, and Mahasaraswati** are worshipped together in separate shrines within the same complex.

Location and Accessibility

- **Address:** Kalimath Village, near Guptkashi, Rudraprayag District, Uttarakhand - 246439.
- **Altitude:** Approximately 1,800 meters (6,000 feet) above sea level.
- **How to Get There:** * **By Road:** It is roughly 13 km from **Ukhimath** and 11 km from **Guptkashi**. One can hire a taxi or take a local bus from these towns. It is a spiritual stop often included in the Kedarnath Yatra circuit.
    - **By Rail:** The nearest major railway station is Rishikesh (approx. 190 km).
    - **By Air:** The nearest airport is Jolly Grant Airport in Dehradun (approx. 210 km).

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- **Phone:** Local contacts for nearby administration/accommodation include +91-9634435911 or +91-9458136254 (The Meadows/Local Help).

Greatness, Legends, and History

- **The Legend of Raktabija:** According to the *Markandeya Purana*, this is the spot where Goddess Kali killed the demon **Raktabija**. The demon had a boon that every drop of his blood touching the ground would create another clone. Kali drank his blood before it could fall and eventually stepped into the earth here after her victory.

- **Shakti Peetha:** It is considered one of the 108 Shakti Peethas. Some traditions believe it is where Goddess Sati's **lower body (feet)** or **back** fell.
- **Literary Connection:** Local lore identifies Kalimath as the birthplace of the legendary Sanskrit poet **Kalidasa**, who is said to have gained his extraordinary wisdom through the grace of Kali at this very spot.

Architecture and Deities

- **Main Deity (Mahakali):** Uniquely, there is **no idol** of Goddess Kali in the main shrine. Instead, a **sacred pit (Kund)** is worshipped. This pit is permanently covered by a silver plate known as the **Rajatpat Sri Yantra**.
- **Architecture:** The main Kali temple is circular with a sloping roof (typical of Himalayan style to shed snow) built on a square platform.
- **Other Shrines (Panchayatana Style):** * **Mahalakshmi Temple:** Located near the main shrine, where a sacred fire (*Akhand Jyoti*) has reportedly been burning for ages.
    - **Mahasaraswati Temple:** Dedicated to the goddess of wisdom.
    - **Shiva Temple:** Houses a Jyotirlinga and is believed to have been established by Adi Shankaracharya.
    - **Bhairavnath & Gauri-Shankar:** Additional shrines dedicated to the protectors and divine couples.

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Rituals, Poojas, and Festivals

- **Daily Rituals:**
    - **Opening:** 4:00 AM (Summer) / 5:30 AM (Winter).
    - **Bhog:** 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM (Temple closed).
    - **Evening Aarti:** 7:30 PM (Summer) / 6:00 PM (Winter).
- **Special Poojas:** Devotees often organize the *Durga Saptashati Path*. Charges for various special rituals generally range from **₹100 to ₹1,100**, though current rates should be confirmed on-site with the temple committee.
- **Major Festival: Navratri** is the most significant event.
    - **Ashtami (8th Day):** This is the **only day of the year** when the silver plate covering the sacred Kund is removed at midnight for a secret puja performed by the Chief Priest.

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Facilities and Accommodation

- **Accommodation:** The shrine authority manages some guest houses.
- **Budget Hotels/Homestays:** * *Prince Homestay & Restaurant* (approx. ₹1,500/night).
    - *Hotel New Krishna Lodge, Guptkashi* (approx. ₹1,700/night).
    - *GMVN Guest House, Rudraprayag* (standard government-run facility).

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- **Donations:** To donate or obtain official bank details, it is recommended to contact the **Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC)**, which oversees many prominent shrines in the region, to ensure funds reach the official treasury.

Nearby Attractions

- **Kalishila:** A steep 8 km trek above the temple leads to a rock where Goddess Kali is said to have rested. The rock bears "footprints" of the Goddess.
- **Ukhimath (13 km):** The winter seat of Lord Kedarnath.
- ***Guptkashi (11 km): Home to the Vishwanath Temple and Manikarnika Kund.*
- **Dhari Devi Temple:** Located between Srinagar and Rudraprayag; local belief holds that the upper half of the Goddess is at Dhari Devi, while the lower half is at Kalimath.

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More info:

Detailed Guide to Sri Kalimath Temple, Rudraprayag

Sri Kalimath Temple is a unique spiritual destination where the conventional worship of idols is replaced by the veneration of a sacred energy point. Below is the expanded information based on your requested headings.

Legends and History

- **The Descent into Earth:** The most prominent legend involves the demon **Raktabija**. After Goddess Kali defeated him, she did not remain on the surface; instead, she chose to withdraw her fierce energy and descended into the earth at this exact spot. The temple marks the point of her "disappearance" (Antardhyan).
- **Siddha Peetha Status:** It is recognized as one of the most powerful **Siddha Peethas** in the Himalayas. Tantric practitioners believe the spiritual vibrations here are exceptionally high, making it a primary center for *Tantra Sadhana*.
- **Connection to Dhari Devi:** Local tradition states that while the lower part of the Goddess is at Kalimath, the upper part (the face) is located at the **Dhari Devi Temple** near Srinagar, Uttarakhand.
- **Kalidasa's Enlightenment:** It is believed that the great poet Kalidasa, once an unlettered man, performed intense penance here. Pleased with his devotion, Goddess Kali blessed him with profound wisdom and literary genius.

Architecture

The temple complex reflects traditional Himalayan styles designed to withstand heavy rain and snow, blended with unique symbolic elements:

- **Main Kali Temple:** A circular structure built on a square base. It features a sloping tin roof and lacks a central idol.
- **The Sacred Kund:** The focal point is a small, sacred pit (Kund) where the Goddess is said to have entered the earth. This is covered by the **Rajatpat Sri Yantra** (a silver plate).
- **Mahalakshmi Temple:** The largest in the complex, featuring a **12-tiered "fasada" style Shikhara** (spire). It houses an *Ashtadhatu* (eight-metal) idol of the Goddess.
- **Mahasaraswati Temple:** Uniquely depicts the Goddess in a "Raudra" (fierce) form, holding weapons instead of a Veena.
- **Gauri Shankar Temple:** Features a 30-foot-high spire. It contains a rare composite idol of Shiva and Parvati in a "Pranay Mudra" (loving posture), carved from a single stone.

Daily Rituals, Special Poojas, and Charges

Note: Charges are subject to change by the temple committee and are often considered "dakshina" or official receipts.

Ritual Type	Timing / Frequency	Estimated Charges (INR)
Morning Aarti	4:00 AM (Summers) / 5:30 AM (Winters)	Free for viewing
Bhog / Offering	12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Voluntary
Evening Aarti	6:00 PM (Winters) / 7:30 PM (Summers)	Free for viewing
Durga Saptashati Path	Upon Request	₹501 – ₹1,100
Hibiscus Yantra Abhishek	Special Occasions (Kalashtami)	₹1,008 (standard package)
General Special Puja	Daily	₹100 – ₹500

- ***Guptkashi (11 km): Home to the* **Vishwanath Temple** and the **Manikarnika Kund**, where two streams (representing Yamuna and Ganga) meet.
- **Chopta (approx. 40 km):** Known as the "Mini Switzerland of India," it is the base for the trek to **Tungnath**, the highest Shiva temple in the world.
- **Deoria Tal (approx. 45 km):** A stunning lake reflecting the Chaukhamba peaks, accessible via a short trek from Sari village.

Contact Info: Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC)

For official donation inquiries, bank account details, and ritual bookings, you can reach the BKTC head office:

- **Head Office Address:** Saket, Lane No. 7, Canal Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand - 248001.
- **Official Website:** badrinath-kedarnath.gov.in
- **General Enquiry Phone:** 0135-2741600

- **Office Related Enquiry:** +91-7302257116
- **Helpline for Kedarnath/Rudraprayag Region:** +91-8534001008
- **Email:** support-ucdb@uk.gov.in

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Videos

Kalimath Temple, Rudraprayag (22 min):

https://youtu.be/lIS60OeCHEM?si=2ci8MlHFzbwvWSw3

Sonaprayag to Kalimath (12'min):

https://youtu.be/gx5SQ-MRcCc?si=5YcMEWQFQVeIv2Yn

Mystical aura of Kalimath (7 min):

https://youtu.be/KuE0o9vQpoA?si=26D9xInwQaRBwFtW

Divine energy of Kalimath Temple (14 min):

https://youtu.be/pfHQvIUNfuQ?si=3DZ7T6gV9WtYtiWK

Kalimath Temple where Ma Kali killed Raktabeej (10 min):

https://youtu.be/bExXb_O3JMw?si=BCbItCSKbTffjiaL

Kalimath Temple (16 min):

https://youtu.be/RJkNCD2nLlU?si=L-OKjtW5FsXVGZ0A

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar

March 28, 2026

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